

Meeting Notes

Eastern HS Programs Advisory Team
July 28, 2009
6-7:30pm
Mount Moriah Baptist Church
Facilitator: Charity Fesler

Overview:

In response to community suggestion, we are now including in the proposed structure a third 10th-12th grade small learning community that will not have a specific academic focus or career-related theme, but will rather be more “liberal arts.” The discussion at this meeting revisited the motivation for and design of the small learning communities and introduced the conversation of potential themes for the third upperclass SLC.

Notes:

Issue	Comments
Introduction Review of core values that are developing: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) <i>Rigorous Academics</i> preparing all students for college and providing relevant career experience2) <i>Core Relationships</i> between students and adults.3) <i>Flexibility</i> to adapt to needs of all students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪▪
Discussion: The Small Learning Community (SLC) structure For follow-up: What are the various options for designing small learning communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The structure of SLCs has been repeatedly discussed as a way of organizing the school that fosters adults-student relationships.▪ When vetted against the core values, SLCs also provide the ability to develop a solid emphasis on both college (AP and theme-specific introductory electives) and career preparation (internships, certifications). They can also be designed with the flexibility to adapt to students’ unique interests and can offer individualized support.▪ Discussion re-emphasized the purpose of the theme as giving context, tangibility, and motivation to

	learning, not as an attempt to specialize or determine a career as early as high school.
<p>Beyond the Health Sciences...</p> <p>Presentation</p> <p>Top four careers (measured by growth projections) from DC DoES data¹:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Business Management & Administration 2. Hospitality & Tourism 3. Law, Public Safety & Security 4. Information Technology <p>¹www.does.dc.gov</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The community has expressed some interest in the option of reviving and expanding the former Law Academy at Eastern HS. DC DoES projections confirm that Law could be a relevant theme for one of the three 10th-12th grade SLCs. ▪ General interest in Law as the third theme, similar to Health Science a concrete example or model of course sequence/ layout of the SLC would be helpful. ▪ Conversation about the SLC structure described above was lengthy and prevented more in depth conversation at this meeting about interest in a Law program.
<p>School Culture</p> <p>Question asked: When you walk into the new building of Eastern HS and walk around the hallways, what do you want to see on the walls, in the entryway, etc? What would indicate the type of culture you want to build?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Common areas for students to informally collaborate ▪ A sense of heritage, but limited – old trophies moved but preserved elsewhere. More focus on what is happening now. ▪ Signage/ information ▪ Student-initiated projects, celebrating student success ▪ An active school after 3pm ▪ Reinstate some older traditions (i.e. not walking up the center steps until you graduate) ▪ College focus – possibility to have college courses taught at the school? ▪ Evidence that the school is part of the community, that the walls of the school do not separate the students from the community. ▪ Not as tangible, but important part of school culture will be safety.